FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 DECEMBER 1986

Iran

U.S. Relations — The Iranian-U.S. talks at The Hague are not connected with the issue of U.S. hostages in Lebanon or with Robert McFarlane's secret trip to Tehran, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated in remarks cited by IRNA 31 December.

Stand on ICO Summit — In a 30 December meeting with the visiting ICO secretary general, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted that it is "not right" for Iran to participate in the ICO summit in Kuwait, IRNA reported. Claiming that Kuwait is acting like an Iraqi province, he said there is little difference between holding the conference in Kuwait or in Iraq. Prime Minister Musavi likewise told the ICO official that Kuwait cannot guarantee the security of the meeting because Iraqi aircraft overfly its territory and Iraqi "terrorist" networks operate inside Kuwait, according to Tehran radio.

Karbala 4 Offensive — The head of Iran's War Information Headquarters commented on the recent offensive at a press conference reported by IRNA, stressing that Karbala 4 was a small-scale attack involving less than 6,000 Iranian troops. On the other hand, Mojahedin-e Khalq sources cited by the *Jordan Times* gave credence to Iraqi claims about Iranian casualties, asserting that over 35,000 Iranians were killed or wounded in the attack across the Shatt al-'Arab.

Israel

Former Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche denied a U.S. press report that he proposed the transfer of money from the Iran arms deal to the Nicaraguan contras. Speaking in a Jerusalem radio interview, Kimche said the story is "ridiculous and nonsense," and he said that Colonel Oliver North must be "trying to pass the blame, if he really said those things."

Egypt

Relations With Israel — Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid received Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir in Cairo 30 December, MENA reported, noting that they discussed ways to activate the peace process. 'Abd al-Majid said afterward that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will visit Egypt as soon as an agenda is prepared. An IDF radio report on the talks noted that Tamir was presented with new Egyptian ideas for peace in the Middle East.

Internal Affairs — MENA reported that opposition members withdrew from a People's Assembly session during which an amendment to the electoral law was approved. The leaders of the neo-Wafd group and the Socialist Labor Party complained that the new measure is not a radical reform and that insufficient time was allotted to discuss it. On the other hand, NDP deputies said the new bill will strengthen democracy by allowing independent candidates to run for elections separately from the party lists.

Earlier, in a 29 December statement broadcast by Cairo radio, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi told the Assembly that the government seeks a "constructive dialogue" with opposition parties. Noting the need to strengthen internal security, he said that a dialogue on this issue with parties holding various views will promote mutual understanding and strengthen national unity. Sidqi stressed that the authorities will spare no effort to improve the competence of the internal security forces to protect society from dangers threatening it. He also referred to the negotiations with the IMF during his lengthy policy review, stating that Egypt will not accept any conditions incompatible with its interests.

Lebanon

Palestinian officials based in Damascus welcomed the Amal Movement leader's cease-fire announcement but accused Amal forces of continuing to shell Palestinian camps in Beirut, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Regarding the possibility of a Lebanese-Syrian summit, the Lebanese Forces Command Council stated that the agenda for a summit should include a timetable for the Syrian Army's withdrawal from Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

In another development, the "organization of the oppressed of the earth" stated that it has executed three Lebanese Jews who were kidnapped in Beirut last year, Beirut radio reported.

Libya and the USSR

JANA reported that the Soviet ambassador gave Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a new year message from CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ndjamena radio warned of a "Soviet-Libyan plot" against Chad, asserting that the USSR has sent military experts into northern Chad to assist Libyan forces.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced his government's intention to establish a high coordination council for southern Sudan headed by an independent southerner, SUNA reported. In remarks broadcast by Omdurman radio, he assured southerners that all Sudanese Muslims accept that Sudan is a multireligious society. Accusing the SPLA of issuing false reports about the course of the war in the south, he denied the SPLA's claim to have sunk a convoy of barges on the Nile.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 251 *31 December 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Razmjo, Wakil Made Full Members of PDPA Politburo ..... C 1
Kabul Reports 'CIA Spies' Crushed 24 Dec ..... C 1

INDIA

Outcome of Talks With Pakistan Reviewed ..... E 1
Arunachal Pradesh Thanks Gandhi for Statehood ..... E 1
Group of 6 Urges Talks on Nuclear Weapons ..... E 1
Commentator Notes Nuclear Research Achievement ..... E 1
Bomb Explodes Near Madras; Fire in Delhi ..... E 2
Discussions Held on Extremism in Tripura ..... E 2
Bangladesh To Take Back Refugees From Tripura ..... E 2
Punjab Strike Passes 'Peacefully' 30 Dec ..... E 3
12 'Hardcore Terrorists' Captured in Amritsar ..... E 3
4 Intruders 'From Pakistan' Killed in Punjab ..... E 3
AFP Reports Arrest of 900 Afghans in New Delhi ..... E 3

PAKISTAN

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan Returns From PRC Visit ..... F 1
Goal of Recent Talks 'Enduring' Ties With India ..... F 1
New Maritime Agency Launches 'Sea Patrols' ..... F 1
Five Foreign 'Saboteurs' Captured With Weapons ..... F 1

IRAN

Khamene'i New Year Message Urges 'Struggle' ..... I 1
'Banking Negotiations' Not Connected to Hostages ..... I 1
ICO Secretary General Pirzada Continues Visit ..... I 1
Meets Musavi; Views Summit Venue ..... I 1
Majlis Speaker Questions Venue ..... I 2
Pirzada Departs After 3-Day Visit ..... I 2
Economy Minister Meets Visiting Sri Lankan ..... I 2
Velayati Confers With Official ..... I 3
Deputy Minister, Afghan Party Official Meet ..... I 3
Montazeri Confers With Lebanese Clergyman ..... I 3
Velayati Receives Clergyman ..... I 3
Lebanon 'Facing Grave Difficulties' ..... I 3
Lebanese Youth Honored for Killing Israelis ..... I 4
Rafiqdust Explains 'Karbala-4' Objectives ..... I 4
News Conference Held on Offensive ..... I 4
Opposition on 'Complete Failure' *[Amman JORDAN TIMES]* ..... I 5
Spokesman Denies Iraqi Claim of Basra Attack ..... I 6
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 6
Communique No 2,700 Issued ..... I 6
Communique No 2,701 ..... I 6
Iraqi Ammunition Depot 'Destroyed' ..... I 7
IRGC Reports Peshmerga Operations ..... I 7
Iraqi Battalion Surrenders ..... I 7

Razmjo, Wakil Made Full Members of PDPA Politburo

LD311601 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Kabul, 10 Jadi [31 December] — An extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee was held [date not specified]. General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib spoke about his official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union and about party tasks concerning national reconciliation. The statement was heard with great warmth and enthusiasm.

The participants of the plenum then continued their work in five sections. In the first section, which was lead by General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib, representatives of the DRA Armed Forces party activists took part. In the second section, which was lead by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; and Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, matters concerning party work among the workers, artisans, and traders were discussed. Section three, which was lead by Comrade Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of Politburo and secretary of the party Central Committee, discussed work among the farmers.

Section four, which was lead by Comrade Nur Ahmad Nur, member of Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Haydar Masud discussed training and ideological questions. Section five, which was lead by Candidate Member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo Mahmud Barialay and Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najmoddin Kawiani assessed and discussed work with the DRA state and social organization cadre.

In all these sections, in which 135 people spoke, profoundly interesting, open, and comprehensive discussions were held in connection with various aspects of the policy of national reconciliation. The speakers put forward constructive proposals based on principled critical characteristics. The plenum continued its work on the following day. [passage omitted] The plenum also discussed organizational matters.

Comrade Zohur Razmjo was elevated from candidate member of the Politburo to full member of Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee. DRA Minister of Foreign Affairs Comrade Abdol Wakil was elected full member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. Comrades Abdol Karim Baha and Najibullah [not PDPA general secretary] were elected to full membership of the PDPA Central Committee. Comrades Basir Ranjbar, Abdol Rahman Basam, Jura Beg, Faruq Karmand, Hesamoddin Hesam, Azim Zormati, Mir Afghan Bawari were elected candidate members of the PDPA Central Committee. A comprehensive resolution concerning the first question was passed.

At the conclusion of the plenum, Comrade Najib delivered a comprehensive statement. The plenum concluded its work in an atmosphere of party unity and revolutionary solidarity. A brief text of the statement delivered by General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib and the resolution of the plenum will be transmitted in the future.

Kabul Reports 'CIA Spies' Crushed 24 Dec

LD272030 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Abdorrahman and Anas — Two CIA spies of Arab origin — together with Mowlawi Sayd Bashi, one of the well-known criminals of the notorous Golboddin band, were crushed as a result of the victorious operation carried out by the country's heroic Armed Forces on the 24 December in the surroundings of Parwan Province.

The BIA correspondent's report says that these spies were sent to our country to carry out subversive actions and they have been perpetrating terrorism at a time when our party and government have announced national reconciliation in order to stop the bloodshed and murder of Afghan by Afghan; and (here) comprehensive, speedy, efforts are underway for the national peace in the country.

The dispatch of these two persons — the agents of CIA — to assist and encourage the counterrevolutionary bands to fight and shed blood, shows that U.S. imperialism and the hellish CIA administration chose their agents from the Arab and other Islamic countries and make use of them broadly in the undeclared war against our revolutionary country.

This is not the first time that the U.S., British, and other reactionary countries' spies, have met the punishment for their deeds during the thievish operations and their direct part in the war against our country; but we have also witnessed the crushing of (?Toranson) — a U.S. subject — and (?Stewart Barni) — a spy of the British intelligence service — and a number of other spies and agents of the CIA, who, under the name of journalists and physicians, were waging conspiracies against our revolutionary country and our free-born people.

This time also two CIA agents — who had illegally entered our country for terrorist purposes and to give encouragement to the counterrevolutionary bands and had been teaching the notorious Golboddin band how to use the weapons imported from the imperialist countries — have been punished for their shameful and interfering deeds by the vigilant security forces and cooperation of the toiling inhabitants of the region.

Despite all this open interference, the imperialist countries and their allies, via their lying loudspeakers, still claim that they are supporting the solution to the events around Afghanistan and are allegedly making an effort to this end. However the crushing of these two well-known spies and other spies, reveals that imperialism never wants or wanted to end fratricide and to cease shedding the blood of Afghan by Afghan in our revolutionary country, so that our peoples can live in peace and become united in the construction of Afghanistan.

Outcome of Talks With Pakistan Reviewed

BK291722 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1545 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Spotlight: "Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary-Level Talks," a cable dispatch by the All-India Radio Islamabad Correspondent R. K. Mathur]

[Text] The recent visit of the foreign secretary, Mr A.P. Venkateswaran, to Islamabad and his parleys with the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar, marks a significant step forward in the process of normalization of relations between India and Pakistan. The two foreign secretaries had ample reason to be, as they put it at their joint press conference on Sunday night, entirely satisfied with the result of their talks. A very significant and substantial progress has been achieved in the entire spectrum of relationship and the dialogue would be continued in New Delhi early next year.

With a fresh route on expansion of private trade between the two countries agreed upon, a way has been found to convene the meeting of the subcommissions on trade and consular matters. These as well as the meeting of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission could now take place in the first half of the new year. The Indian side expressed its readiness to send a railway delegation to conclude the agreement to reopen the Khokrapara-Munabao rail link and the Pakistani side indicated that a date for the visit would be suggested soon. On the understanding reached between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and President Zia last year that neither country would attack the other's nuclear installations, the two sides made good progress in drafting the legal document embodying it and some technical matters remain to be sorted out.

About the reconciliation of the Indian draft of a treaty of peace, friendship, and understanding and the Pakistani draft of a no-war pact, the dialogue would be continued at their next round in New Delhi.

Mr Venkateswaran faced a barrage of questions from newsmen which reflected the degree of impatience that exists in the two countries at the slow progress of the process of normalization. He assured the newsmen that India had never described itself as a power which is dominating the region. On terrorism, he said the two sides discussed ways and means of dispelling perceptions which are not consistent with the statements made by the two governments. He said he too wished the progress of talks for normalization to be faster. He, however, pointed out that each round of talks had moved the process of normalization further. It is noteworthy that the two countries have over the years come a long way from, for instance, the early 70's when there was a virtual absence of relations in almost every field between the two countries. Since then, there has been a significant and substantial progress away from conflict and confrotation and toward good-neighborly and harmonious relations. Now there are frequent meetings at the high level in various fields. This is a pointer toward the intensification of dialogue between the two countries.

The meeting of the foreign secretaries was held in pursuance of the decison taken by the two prime ministers — Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo — at Bangalore in November during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit. The two sides reaffirmed the commitment of their governments to early normalization of relations on the basis of the spirit of the Simla agreement and in keeping with what was agreed at the meeting of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Ganhi, and the president, General Ziaul Haq, on the 17th of December last year.

The talks were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere and were marked by a spirit of mutual understanding. As the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar, put it, we would be satisfied if these talks have made a small, modest, humble contribution toward a better understanding between the two countries.

Arunachal Pradesh Thanks Gandhi for Statehood

BK291003 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly has thanked the prime minister for granting statehood to the Union territory. The house adopted a resolution to this effect unanimously in Itanagar today. Moving the resolution the chief minister, Mr Gegong Apong, said this has met the long cherished desires and aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

The House at its 1-day session expressed surprise over the Chinese reaction to conferment of statehood on Arunachal Pradesh. The chief minister said there is no historical or documentary evidence to prove China's claim on the Union territory.

Group of 6 Urges Talks on Nuclear Weapons

BK301042 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The leaders of the 6-nation 5-continent peace and disarmament initiative have called upon the superpowers to start comprehensive talks as soon as possible next year to eliminate nuclear weapons. In a statement on the eve of the new year, the leaders of Mexico, Argentina, Sweden, Greece, Tanzania, and India said there was no justification for nuclear testing by any country. They appealed to the United States to reconsider its policy on nuclear testing so that a bilateral moratorium can be established.

The statement noted with regret the recent announcement by the Soviet Union to terminate its unilateral moratorium and to resume nuclear testing following the first U.S. test next year. The joint statement was released simultaneously in all the six capitals.

Commentator Notes Nuclear Research Achievement

BK271400 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1340 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Commentary by K.S. Jayaraman of PTI]

[Text] Early next year, India will be commissioning a new nuclear research reactor fueled by a man-made material derived from the beach sands of Kerala. When built, it would probably be the only

reactor of its kind anywhere in the world running on Uranium-233, also known as a third fuel. The reactor named Kamini is in the final stage of construction at Kalpakkam near Madras. The beach sands in the coast of Kerala State in India contain large quantities of thorium, a fertile nuclear fuel. One of the main objectives of India's atomic energy program is to harness this resource for power development. Thorium by itself cannot be burned in a nuclear reactor. It must be coverted into Uranium-233 which is a (?fission) fuel. This conversion is accomplished by particles called neutrons which are generated inside nuclear reactors.

To produce Uranium-233, a reactor core is surrounded by a blanket of thorium metal and irradiated by neutrons. The irradiated thorium is then removed and the Uranium-233 produced is separated. Separation of Uranium-233 from irradiated thorium is in itself a significant achievement. Through thorium irradiation in existing research reactors, Indian scientists have produced sizable quantities of Uranium-233. Even before the construction of Kamini, scientists in Bombay built a small reactor fueled by a solution of Uranium-233 in the form of uranonitrate. Called Purnima-II, it was commissioned in 1984, but it produced no power. Containing less than 400 grams of Uranium-233 in a zinc alloy vessel of the size of an ordinary milk bottle, it was the smallest reactor of its kind in the world. Various physics experiments carried out using Purnima-II provided the scientists the basic data necessary for building larger reactors using Uranium-233. According to Dr N. Srinivasan, leader of the design team, Purnima-II was the first experimental step in the long-term goal of exploiting the vast reserves of thorium in the country. Kamini which is expected to be in operation in March next year is a successor to Purnima-II.

Unlike Purnima-II, which was a zero power reactor, Kamini will produce 30 kilowatts of thermal power and a flux of 1,000 billion neutrons every second, streaming through a pipe of 1 square centimeter in cross section. This reactor, too, will be surprisingly small containing only 600 grams of Uranium-233. Unlike Purnima-II, which used a liquid fuel, Kamini will use Uranium-233 in the form of aluminum alloy plates. The core containing the fuel plates will be immersed inside a pool of water surrounded by a concrete vault. According to the Bhabha Atomic Research Center [BARC], the main purpose of building this reactor is neutron radiography. Neutrons, like X-rays, can be used to take pictures of the inside of metallic objects. Kamini, which is a source of high energy neutrons, will be used for radiography of irradiated fuel elements of the fast breeder test reactor already operating in Kalpakkam. The neutrons coming from Kamini will also be used for activation analysis — a technique to detect impurities in alloys — and for general research in radiation physics.

While Kamini will become a new tool for nuclear research, its construction has given the knowledge and confidence for building electrical power producing reactors in the third stage of India's nuclear program. India is probably the only country pursuing a program for exploiting thorium. It is to the credit of Indian atomic scientists that this thorium technology is totally indigenous. The design of Kamini, fabrication of its components control and safety systems were all carried out at BARC itself. India will step up production of Uranium-233 by irradiating more thorium in the fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam and the recently commissioned Dhruv reactor at Trombay. At the same time, Indian scientists are exploring the possibility of converting thorium into Uranium-233 by using fusion neutrons and accelerator-produced neutrons. Currently, experiments are being carried jointly by scientists of India and Switzerland to explore this possibility. Indian scientists believe that in the next 10 years, these alternative methods of producing Uranium-233 would become a real source of power.

Bomb Explodes Near Madras; Fire in Delhi
BK300918 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] A powerful bomb explosion on the railway track between (Chetput) and (Nungampakkam) stations in Madras last night disrupted the suburban electric train services for nearly 3 hours. Senior police and railway officials rushed to the spot where 1-meter deep crater has been caused by the explosion. Another unexploded device was defused with the help of explosive experts to avert further explosions.

In New Delhi, goods worth several lakhs of rupees were destroyed when a big fire broke out in the industrial complex of Kirtinagar early this morning. Thirty-six fire tenders fought for nearly 3 hours to extinguish the fire. There was no loss of life. Lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr H.L. Kapur, and police officials reached the accident site immediately and personally supervised the operation. The cause of the fire is being investigated.

Discussions Held on Extremism in Tripura
BK291007 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Union minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, has said that certain suggestions have come up during his discussions with the Tripura chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, in Agartala to contain TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremist activities in the state. He told newsmen in Agartala yesterday that they discussed various aspects of the problem and the suggestions will be examined and further discussed when the chief minister meets the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, in New Delhi on the 5th of next month.

The Union minister of communications, Mr Santosh Mohan Dey; the Tripura governor, General Krishna Rao; and the Union home secretary, Mr Somiah; were also present during the discussions. The governor is visiting today the affected areas in Kamalpur.

Bangladesh To Take Back Refugees From Tripura
BK301603 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Bangladesh has agreed to take back over 24,300 tribal refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts who were taking shelter in 4 relief camps in Tripura. The agreement was reached at the

meeting between Tripura and Bangladesh officials at Sabroom in South Tripura yesterday.

A government spokesman told our Agartala correspondent that 300 families will be repatriated to Bangladesh every day from the 15th of next month.

Punjab Strike Passes 'Peacefully' 30 Dec

BK301645 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The 2d day of the Punjab bundh [strike] passed off peacefully without any major incident. The bundh had been called by the two factions of the All India Sikh Students Federation. Reports say that the response to today's bundh was not as much as yesterday's. While most of the shops at various places in the state were closed in the morning, they opened during the course of the day. A large number of buses ran on the main routes and no passenger was stranded. The buses to and from Chandigarh from all district headquarers plied normally.

The Punjab minister of state for home, Captain Kamaljit Singh, told newsmen in Chandigarh this evening that attempts were made to disrupt road traffic at three places in Hoshiarpur and Kapurthala Districts. He said the obstructions were removed immediately. The bundh did not affect normal life in the state, he said. Attempts were also made at three places in Kapurthala District to disrupt telecommunications.

Meanwhile, two intruders from Pakistan were apprehended by a BSF [Border Security Forces] patrol party in the Khemkaran area last night. The BSF handed them over to the police.

12 'Hardcore Terrorists' Captured in Amritsar

BK291701 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Punjab police have arrested 12 hardcore terrorists in Amritsar District today. The district police chief, Mr Izar Alam, said the arrested are the main cream of terrorists. The arrested included Amrik Singh, Jaswant Singh, Daljit Singh, Kulwant Singh, and (Sukhed) Singh.

Mr Izar Alam said that with the arrest of Kulwant Singh the police have solved the (Balwava) case in which six members of the family were killed. Another terrorist, Manjit Singh has admitted bank robbery. He has also confessed to have murdered Inspector Jarnail Singh. Manjit Singh was also involved in the (Khudda) killing. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from the arrested terrorists.

4 Intruders 'From Pakistan' Killed in Punjab

BK291603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, four intruders from Pakistan were killed in an encounter with a BSF [Border Security Force] patrol party in the border area of Khemkaran yesterday. According to a delayed report, eight intruders who sneaked into Indian territory opened fire when challenged by the BSF. The patrol party returned the fire killing four of them while the others escaped to Pakistan.

In Hoshiarpur District, one person was shot dead by two scooter-borne terrorists in a village near Balachar police station this morning. The victim has been identified as the sarpanch [head] of the village.

AFP Reports Arrest of 900 Afghans in New Delhi

BK271050 Hong Kong AFP in English 1046 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 27 (AFP) — Police arrested more than 900 Afghan refugees planning to hold protest marches to the Indian Parliament here on the seventh anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, police said Saturday. Police broke up one protest march near the Indian Parliament and arrested more than 200 Afghan refugees, including 10 children, police said.

A further 720 Afghan refugees were arrested in different areas of the capital before they could join the protest march, a police spokesman said. The arrested included 32 children who had assembled carrying banners, placards, and pamphlets demanding unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The protesters have been charged with defying orders which ban protest marches in the Indian capital, but they would be released later in the day, police said.

"We demand the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from our land and the right of self-determination to the Afghans," a statement from the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin in India said.

Some 6,400 Afghan refugees are officially registered with the New Delhi authorities, but an estimated 10,000 live in the capital.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan Returns From PRC Visit

BK301627 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said Pakistan and China have identical views on various global and regional issues, as well as bilateral matters. Speaking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this evening after returning from his week-long visit to China, he said the Chinese leaders are fully aware of the security environment around Pakistan. They have reiterated their support for Pakistan's national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The Chinese leaders have also lauded Pakistan's efforts for reducing tension in South Asia and for promoting regional cooperation.

On Afghanistan, the foreign minister said China and Pakistan agree that the Afghanistan problem should be peacefully solved based on recognized principles. He said the views of China and Pakistan on the current situation for a political solution to this problem are identical, and China lauds the efforts of Pakistan in this connection. In reply to a question he said he exchanged views with the Chinese leaders on the situation in the eastern border. He said the Chinese leaders are well aware of our position [previous word in English] and the security situation in this region and they appreciated the recent talks between Pakistan and India.

Goal of Recent Talks 'Enduring' Ties With India

BK291411 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1610 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Commentary by M.H. Askari]

[Text] High-level contacts between Pakistan and India, which remained suspended for some months, have been resumed once again. The interior secretaries of the two countries had wide-ranging talks in Lahore about a week ago. The foreign secretaries have also concluded their 2-day talks in Islamabad. Pakistan has always favored establishment of normal, friendly relations with its neighbor. For this reason, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had met the Indian prime minister in New Delhi in December last. More recently on the occasion of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit in Bangalore, the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, had a detailed meeting with his Indian counterpart on matters of mutual concern.

The talks between the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India had no fixed agenda. The idea was to give both sides the opportunity to discuss and resolve irritants which stand in the way of harmonious relationship.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, during his meeting with the Indian foreign secretary stated categorically that Pakistan desires friendly and cordial relations with all its neighbors, particularly India; that in the desire to normalize relations, India would not find Pakistan lagging behind in taking all necessary measures. Nevertheless, in the interest of a clear understanding of each other's position, Mr Noorani drew the Indian foreign secretary's attention to the belligerent anti-Pakistan statements of certain Indian leaders which could vitiate the atmosphere and jeopardize the process of normalization.

On its part, Pakistan has invariably demonstrated moderation in the expression of its views. Even though recently there were reports of the massing of an extraordinarily large number of India forces on the border, the president in an interview to a London daily reiterated that Pakistan was on a peace offensive and refused to be provoked. The president also stated that at his meeting with Mr Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi last year, it had been decided that Pakistan and India would take all necessary steps to generate mutual confidence. Although, subsequently, certain indicators from across the border were not very helpful, yet Pakistan has remained hopeful that the climate would improve.

The talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries would go a long way in view of (?certain) initiatives already taken at the highest level which dealt with the entire spectrum of problems standing in the way of normal relations. The interior secretaries meeting in Lahore earlier last week has reaffirmed the resolve of both governments to establish neighborly and cooperative relations on the basis of sovereign equality, independence, and due regard for each other's territorial integrity. The talks between the foreign secretaries, it is hoped, will further strengthen this resolve, for in this resolve lies the key to an enduring and dependable relationship between Pakistan and India.

New Maritime Agency Launches 'Sea Patrols'

BK301144 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The newly created Maritime Security Agency has already carried out a number of sea patrols on a trial basis as part of its overall aim of enforcing Pakistan's rights over its exclusive economic zone. The zone stretches 200 miles out into the Arabian Sea. A spokesman of the agency said in Karachi today that the agency will enforce compliance by foreign vessels of Pakistan's exclusive fishing and other economic rights in the different stretches of the Arabian Sea as defined in the Maritime Zone Act [of] 1983.

Five Foreign 'Saboteurs' Captured With Weapons

BK310940 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] According to APP [*Associated Press of Pakistan*], scouts from Chaman foiled an attempt by five foreign saboteurs to smuggle a large quantity of arms and ammunition into Pakistan and arrested them. The arms and ammunition include several anti-aircraft guns, 40 mortar rounds, 30 rocket launchers, 15 antitank landmines, 15 kilograms of explosives, fuses for 20 bombs, and a radio set.

Khamene'i New Year Message Urges 'Struggle'

LD311002 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i, in a message issued Wednesday, congratulated world Christian community, Iranian Christians, especially, on the occasion of the new year.

The message said that history expects the global Christian community, its clergy, and the world-wide adherents of the religion, who take inspiration from the struggle of the Jesus Christ (AS) to fight against the satans of the time.

Birth of Jesus Christ (AS), continued the message, brought divine blessings and abundance to a nation which was then suffering from injustice, discrimination, and deprivation.

Christ's message, said the president, was monotheism, war for God Almighty and campaign against injustice. The same eternal divine message, he added, calls on the followers of all divine religions, to wage holy war for God, struggle against oppressors and satanic powers.

History, he stressed, expects Christians and the Christian clergy throughout the world inspired by divine teachings of Jesus Christ (AS) to fight against satans of the time and materialise the sublime objectives of Christ (AS).

In another part of the message the president paid tribute and respect to those Christian families whose sons have been martyred in protecting the homeland and safeguarding values of the revolution. He further hoped that the coming year will be a happy and prosperous year for all Iranian Christians.

'Banking Negotiations' Not Connected to Hostages

LD311026 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Wednesday that the banking negotiations within the framework of the Algiers accord, are by no means connected to the American hostages in Lebanon or the clandestine trip of McFarlane to Tehran.

Speaking after the Cabinet ministers session the prime minister added that the International Court at The Hague had approved the case some five months ago and if there is no result, the matter will be brought up in The Hague again.

The Cabinet ministers discussed the latest internal and external developments and the minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Mohsen Rafiqdust, explained the objectives of the Karbala-4 offensive.

More on the offensive launched in southern war fronts last week, he said that the enemy fronts were shattered and the Iraqi commanders were caught by surprise and this increased the enemy casualties by several folds. Even the enemy's deployment of chemical weapons against the Islamic forces was not of much help for the Iraqi forces.

ICO Secretary General Pirzada Continues Visit

Meets Musavi; Views Summit Venue

LD301243 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] This morning Secretary General Pirzada of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], who is in Tehran, met with Prime Minsiter Mir Hoseyn Musavi. During the meeting, the ICO secretary general briefed the prime minister on the progress of his talks with our country's responsible officials and changes in this organization during the past 2 years. Referring to the importance of participation by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the ICO summit and Iran's well-deserved role in solving problems of the Islamic countries, Mr Pirzada expressed hope that by attending the summit at the highest level, Iran would bring about the conditions required for its success.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi later gave a speech noting the role that this Islamic organization could play in solving difficulties of Islamic states. He said that if the ICO were to change its stances in principle, we believe it can play a just role in solving Islamic states' problems at the international level. It could safeguard the interests of all Islamic countries, free from racial or national prejudices.

About the venue of the Islamic summit, the prime minister emphasized: The summit venue should be a safe place and the host country should be capable of securing this safety at the level suitable for the outstanding officials of the Islamic states. The prime minister said: Under the circumstances in which Iraqi aircraft appear in Kuwaiti skies every moment, how can this country safeguard the security of the Islamic summit? The prime minister added: The Kuwaitis are incapable of preventing Iraqi aircraft from violating their country's airspace. So do you think Kuwait meets the standard when truck loads of explosives are being transported for Saddam's regime within a few kilometers of the Islamic summit venue, and while the terrorist and espionage branches of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime are active inside Kuwait, how can Kuwait be considered a safe place for holding such a summit?

The prime minister emphasized: At a time when the warmongering and criminal regime of Saddam is in close proximity to the summit venue and commits daily crimes in open violation of international law, disrupting the security of civilian airlines, it is appropriate to worry about holding the Islamic summit in such a place. The prime minister went on: Kuwait even failed 2 months ago to convince Saddam's aggressive regime not to threaten the plane carrying Al-'Atiqi, the adviser to the amir of Kuwait, who was taking a message to Iranian President Mr Khamene'i; eventually, the Kuwaiti plane was forced to change course. Other clear examples of the Iraqi regime's violation of international law, considered to be a grave danger to the region's countries, are the crime committed by the Iraqi planes when they attacked the plane carrying Algerian Foreign Minister Ben Yahya in 1982 and condemnation of Iraq by the International Civil Aviation Organization, the ICAO.

Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi stressed that some highly prominent figures are among those attending the ICO summit. He says it is

not wise to gather outstanding personalities from the Islamic countries in a place that faces such danger. The prime minister added: Apart from the security problems of the summit, Kuwait has openly supported the warmongering regime of Saddam, politically, militarily and economically — and this has exacerbated the war's destruction. And now that it is considered to be the host of the Islamic summit, it should also be taken into consideration that not only has it not been neutral in the war, it has practically supported the Iraqi regime. This shows that Kuwait is even incapable of recognizing its own interests.

On the basis of this report, at the conclusion of this meeting, ICO Secretary General Pirzada, referring to the importance of neutrality of the country hosting the summit, called upon Iran to assist this organization in solving problems of the Islamic states by continuing to cooperate with the ICO.

Majlis Speaker Questions Venue

LD301644 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 30 IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Monday that Kuwait was a small state putting herself at the disposal of an aggressive country and that it was acting like an Iraqi province. Speaking in a meeting with the visiting secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organisation, Sharifuddin Pirzada, the Majlis speaker told him that it would not make much difference if the ICO held its summit meet in the (Iraqi) city of Basra.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks came after Pirzada's request for Iran to have an active presence in the ICO fifth summit meet to be held in Kuwait in late January.

"It is not right for us to participate in the ICO summit meet in a small country whose ports have taken the place of (Iraqi ports) of Basra and Umm Qasr and where Iraqi bound arms loaded ships have anchored," the imam's representative to the Supreme Defence Council further stated.

Pointing to Kuwait's partiality in the Iraqi imposed war, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said even if Iran overlooked this partiality, "we still think Kuwait is not qualified to host a conference in which 46 Islamic states have membership."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the imam's SDC representative said the Kuwaiti officials were so much influenced by the Iraqi regime that when the plane carrying their special envoy to Tehran was threatened by Iraqi planes and forced to flee to the Soviet territory, they did not or dared not announce the incident had been caused by Iraq. "This is a problem they (the Kuwaiti's) themselves have created and it is Kuwait which should understand the issue and correct her stands," he said.

The ICO head said at the meeting that the organisation had made important efforts towards adopting more serious stands over the past two years. He also described Iran as "an important member" of the ICO which "enjoys strong positions" vis-a-vis regional issues, including the Palestine and Afghanistan issues, and the Iraq-Iran war.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani told Pirzada that in similar meetings, the ICO had not come out with serious decisions but mere ceremonies. "We are not very much hopeful that the conference would succeed in taking serious action," Hashemi-Rafsanjani predicted.

The Majlis speaker further stated that if the ICO had declared the aggressor and the party responsible for starting the war from the very beginning, the war would have ended very soon and the ICO itself would have attained a strong standing. "If you manage to run the ICO in a manner whereby you do not fear the indignation of this or that (person), then all governments would take the ICO seriously," concluded Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

ICO chief Pirzada arrived in Tehran Sunday to persuade Iran to send a high level delegation to the ICO summit meet in Kuwait. He has so far met with a number of high ranking Iranian officials, including President Khamene'i, Prime Minister Musavi, and Foreign Minister Velayati.

Pirzada Departs After 3-Day Visit

LD310959 Tehran IRNA in English 0813 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31, IRNA — The secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, Shariffudin Pirzada, left Tehran at the end of a three-day visit and talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran officials over the forthcoming ICO summit in Kuwait.

Pirzada was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by the Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During his visit, Pirzada held talks with high-ranking Iranian officials on the ICO meet and invited the Iranian officials to actively participate in the summit. However, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran called for change in the venue of the summit due to hostile stance of the Kuwaiti Government towards Iran and also its support for the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Economy Minister Meets Visiting Sri Lankan

LD302037 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 30, IRNA — Visiting Sri Lankan minister of finance and planning announced his country's readiness to resume activities of the joint Iran-Sri Lanka economic commission, here Tuesday.

The Sri Lankan Minister Ronald De Mel who met Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad-Javad Iravani, said that further discussions would be held on the issue.

The two sides expressed hope that the bilateral trade and economic exchanges would be diversified further, based on the existing cooperation between the two states.

The Sri Lankan official extended an invitation to Iravani for a formal visit to the South Asian island nation.

De Mel arrived here on Dec 28.

Velayati Confers With Official

LD302043 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 39, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told visiting Sri Lankan Minister of Finance and Planning Ronald De Mel here Tuesday that the Indian Ocean littoral states should not allow the superpowers to infiltrate the region.

Velayati also expressed concern over efforts by the regime occupying Palestine to infiltrate the region and said it is a strategic duty of the Islamic Republic to fight this cancerous tumor (Israel) in the region. The foreign minister also said that it was necessary for Islamic and Third World countries to battle this bastion of Western hegemony in the region.

In response, De Mel announced that his country opposed the superpowers' presence in the Indian Ocean and said the Colombo government would remain a non-aligned country. The Sri Lankan minister also called for further expansion of Tehran-Colombo relations in economic, political, cultural, and commercial fields.

Deputy Minister, Afghan Party Official Meet

LD301719 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 30, IRNA — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad-Javad Larijani said here Tuesday that Afghan Muslims should not be deceived by the U.S. propaganda and that the mujahidin should not be weakened. He made the remarks in a meeting with head of Jamiat-e Eslami (the Islamic Party) of Afghanistan Burhaneddin Rabbani who met with U.S. President Ronald Reagan together with leaders of several Afghan groups in Washington last June.

Larijani said that the White House made serious attempts at rapprochement with Iran, but that its endeavours ended in failure. "If we had paid the least attention to the U.S., it would have provided Iran with huge assistance," he added.

The Afghan issue is similar to that of Iran, Larijani said, and the Afghan Muslims should realise that the U.S. opposes Islam and only seeks to exploit the issue as a weapon against the Soviet Union.

The Afghan people are involved in an extensive struggle against Soviet aggressors, he said, further exhorting them to preserve the genuineness of this jihad (holy war) which he described as being more important than victory itself.

Later in the meeting Larijani termed the Geneva talks on Afghan issue "a big plot" hatched against the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan and noted that the Soviet Union has the most to gain from these talks. He stressed that the Afghan issue should not be resolved in the context of East-West equations.

Larijani described [the] presence of 150,000 Soviet forces in Afghanistan as "an obvious foreign interference" in that country and said the Kremlin claim that it was cutting the foreign hands from this Muslim country simply means the suppression of the Afghan Muslims' resistance.

In reply Rabbani said that Afghan Muslims stood in need of the advice of Iranian officials as never before because of the complexity of the conspiracies hatched against the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan.

Rabbani is currently here to exchange views with other Afghan groups as well as Islamic Republic authorities.

Montazeri Confers With Lebanese Clergyman

LD292045 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Hojjat al-Islam Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din, a Lebanese clergyman, conferred with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, yesterday evening.

Velayati Receives Clergyman

LD292051 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — Visiting Lebanese vice-chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Assembly Shaykh Mohammad Mahdi Shams al-Din discussed regional issues, Lebanon's camp-wars as well as the Iranian-sponsored peace plan with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday. In the meeting Velayati stressed the need for halting the clashes which he said were to the benefit of the imperialists and Zionists.

Shams al-Din in reply expressed support for the Iranian peace plan for ending the clashes around Palestinian camps in Lebanon and approved President Khamene'i's recent remarks calling for the lifting of blockade and the food embargo to Al-Rashidiyah camp.

Lebanon 'Facing Grave Difficulties'

LD311016 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Dec 31, IRNA — Visiting Vice Chairman of the Lebanese Shi'ite assembly Shaykh Shams al-Din met and conferred here Monday night with Imam Khomeyni's representative to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in the city, Ayatollah Va'ez Tabasi.

The imam's representative emphasized that the key to solving the political and social problems of Lebanon lays in the unity of committed forces of the country. He said those who try to prolong the camps war are Zionist and imperialist agents.

Shaykh Shams al-Din said that Lebanon is facing grave difficulties but voiced hope that the resistance of the Lebanese Muslim nation will ultimately prevail in restoring stability to the country.

The Shi'ite Lebanese parliamentarian is in Mashhad on pilgrimage to the holy shrine of the eighth Shi'ite Imam Reza (AS).

Lebanese Youth Honored for Killing Israelis
LD292127 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] London, Dec 29, IRNA — Martyr Ahmad Qasir has received due recognition for sacrificing his life in the struggle against the Zionist occupation of Lebanon. The Lebanese youth was behind the frontal assault on the Israeli headquarters in Tyre on November 11, 1982. The attack is now revealed as being responsible for killing at least 75 Zionist soldiers.

As the largest single defeat the Israelis suffered during their invasion of Lebanon, it is seen as a watershed for a pattern of attacks on the Zionist occupiers until it was forced to withdraw the bulk of its troops from southern Lebanon in 1985.

Among the tributes paid to Qasir as a martyr for Islam is an enscribed bronze plaque sent from officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Tehran has also named one of its streets in respect for the Muslim youth, which runs parallel to a road named after Khalid Islambuli, famous for his revolutionary execution of President al-Sadat of Egypt.

In a dispatch from Qasir's home village of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr Monday, the London *Times* relates that the martyr's house has become a centre of attraction among the southern Lebanese still fighting to expel remnants of the Zionist army from their country.

The paper says that Qasir's father Ja'far Khalil has respectfully hung the bronze plaque in his modest home in commemoration of his son's proud feat.

Rafiqdust Explains 'Karbala-4' Objectives
LD311216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Excerpts] During today's Cabinet session, Minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Rafiqdust explained the objectives of the Karbala-4 operations on the southern front, and the heavy losses suffered by the Iraqi Armed Forces during these operations. He said: The fatal blow to the Iraqi forces was delivered when the Zionist enemy thought it was on full alert. However, the Iraqi Command was panic-stricken by the breaking of the countless obstacles created along the front, and this resulted in heavy losses and casualties of the Iraqi forces, many times more than predicted by the planners of the operations. The extensive use of chemical weapons by the Ba'thist criminals did not help them very much either.

Continuing his remarks, and referring to the absurd and contradictory propaganda of foreign mass media, which hastened to help Saddam's regime, the minister of the Guards Corps said: Our nation has become accustomed to hearing delayed reports of victory, distorted by the arrogant mass media. The nation has not forgotten the experience of the Mehran and Al-Faw victories.

Also during this Cabinet session, a report by the Ministry of Roads and Transport on future activities, plans, and programs was presented. This report explained the ministry's collection of data and statistics on the number of trucks in the country, the training for road transportation, the role played by railways in economic expansion and the elimination of bottlenecks and deprivation, plans related to the expansion of the state rail network, and the big construction project of the Bafq-Bandar 'Abbas railway. At the conclusion of this report, the government paid tribute to the officials of the Ministry of Roads and Transport for their extensive activities on the front and behind the battlelines. [passage omitted]

According to a Central News Unit report, during today's Cabinet session the allocation of 176 million rials for opening model schools and schools with computer facilities for training and storing data and information related to the Ministry of Education and Training was approved. The Cabinet also approved the allocation of 540 million rials for completion of the Qazvin plain project and the Gotvand irrigation projects, and for a study on the construction of its second and third dams.

News Conference Held on Offensive
LD301750 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 30, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr Kamal Kharrazi said here Tuesday that Iraq's false propaganda concerning Iran's Karbala-4 operations, launched in the southern fronts on 24 December, was aimed at boosting the morale of its badly-beaten forces. He said the Karbala-4 operations dealt shattering blows on enemy troops.

Speaking at a press conference here, the WIH head said in the small scale Karbala-4 offensive four small units of Iranian Muslim forces crossed the Arvand River and attacked enemy positions on Umm al-Rasas island.

The Iranian forces killed a large number of Iraqi soldiers, captured some others, and destroyed enemy defensive equipment on the island before returning to bases, Kharrazi said. He put the number of Iranain soldiers who participated in the Karbala-4 offensive at less than 6,000.

The WIH head noted that the Muslim forces of Iran achieved all their goals in the Karbala-4 operations, launched against Iraqi positions on Umm al-Rasas island in Shalamcheh region, one of the most sensitive areas along Iraq-Iran borders.

Dr Kharrazi said that the Iraqi regime had erected in the Karbala-4 operational theater the most fortified defence line on its side of the 1,300-km border with Iran. He said the obstacles included booby-trapped canals, mine fields, and barbed wire.

The WIH head said the lightning Iranian attack on Iraqi troops resulted in heavy enemy life and military equipment losses. He said the operation dealt a big defeat to Iraq despite its forces on the island being on full alert. One of the goals of the Karbala-4 offensive was to demonstrate Iranian forces' ability to break through even the most fortified Iraqi positions, he said.

Kharrazi said that another objective of the offensive was to gauge the psychological situation of Iraqi troops as well as enemy defense power.

Commenting on Iraq's contradictory claims on the limited Iranian offensive, Kharrazi said that Iraq's approach to the issue revealed that the only way it could boost its troops' morale after the stunning defeat was to wage a filthy propaganda campaign.

The Baghdad government, Kharrazi said, had engaged in the same type of dirty propaganda, albeit unskillfully, as did the German dictator Hilter. He said Iraq had first put the Iranian casualty toll in the offensive at 32,344 and then increased the number to 50,380 and then to 90,000.

Dr Kharrazi expressed regret that none of the Western mass media which had access to satellite data had criticized Iraq for having released such contradictory statistics on Iranian casualties. He said satellites did however, confirm that the Iranian offensive was a limited one.

If the Western mass media had investigated Iraqi propaganda more carefully they would certainly have realized Iraq's false propaganda was intended to ease the regime's ever-worsening crisis as well as the psychological pressures besetting it.

Dr Kharrazi said that after every Iranian offensive the Iraqi regime claims that it thwarted a large-scale Iranian attack in a bid to save itself from pressure exerted on it by world political bodies as well as the mass media. In the limited Karbala-4 offensive, Kharrazi said, the Iraqi regime had claimed that Iran's goal was to capture the southern Iraqi city of Basra while the offensive was in fact aimed at annihilating Iraqi troops.

On Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn's recent trip to Saudi Arabia, the WIH head said it was meant to overshadow the regional countries' shift in their stand on the Iraqi-imposed war which he said was to the detriment of the Baghdad government. He described their doubt about the Baghdad government's ability to remain in power as "all too apparent." The Persian Gulf states, he expressed hope, were wise enough not to be deceived by Saddam Husayn's propaganda maneuver.

"In our opinion, the Soviet Union has been cheated by the Iraqi regime more than any other country by having sided with and having equipped the Ba'thist regime in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war," he said. In fact, Kharrazi said, the Soviet Union came to realize the facts much later than Western countries did. He added that the Soviet Union was also cheated by the U.S. by taking the alleged funneling of part of profits from U.S. arms sales to Iran to Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries seriously.

On the achievements of the recently concluded conference on Iraqi people's cooperation in Tehran, Dr Kharrazi said the goal of the conference was to coordinate struggle of all Iraqi opposition groups for toppling the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad as well as to draw up plans on Iraq's political future. "The conference was more successful than we expected," he said.

Asked about the Iraqi air raid on the southern Iranian island of Sirri in the Persian Gulf several months ago, Kharrazi said that Iran had some evidence that Iraq had used soil of other regional countries for its attack.

On the Islamic Republic's stand on certain countries backing the Baghdad government, Kharrazi said that such regional states dared not give their financial and military aid to the Iraqi regime openly. He, however, noted that Iran's tit-for-tat policy in relation with Iraq's supporters did not necessarily mean a military move.

Opposition on 'Complete Failure'

JN301345 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Dec 86 p 1

[By a *Jordan Times* staff writer]

[Text] Amman — The Mojahedin-e Khalq, the major Iranian group opposed to the Tehran regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, said Monday that at least 35,000 Iranian soldiers were killed or wounded in last week's blunted thrust into southern Iraq.

The group, in a statement telexed to the *Jordan Times*, quoted Mojahedin supporters in the Iranian Armed Forces for the casualty figure.

"The Khomeyni regime's latest offensive against Iraqi territory was a complete failure," the statement quoted its sources as saying.

In addition to the thousands of killed or wounded, the death toll was mounting because of severe problems transferring the wounded from the front line to hospitals, the statement said.

Iraq has said that more than 32,000 Iranian soldiers were killed or wounded in the two-day Iranian thrust, which was launched Wednesday night, and reporters visiting the battlefront on Saturday said they counted hundreds of Iranian corpses littering the area or floating in the Shatt Al-'Arab waterway.

Iraq has said that the Iranian assault was aimed at its southern port of Basra after taking the Umm al-Rasas island in the waterway. The island was recaptured by the Iraqis Friday morning.

The Mojahedin statement named 14 Iranian divisions and four brigades that took part in the attack and said the ill-fated offensive was planned by Iran's parliamentary speaker, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The regime's objective in this offensive was to cross the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and cut off the Al-Faw-Basra highway, the statenment said. "On that same day, Rafsanjani had promised a large offensive at the front. But, subsequent to the complete defeat of the offensive — 16 hours after if was launched and reported by most news agencies — in an attempt to cover up its disastrous defeat, the regime announced in its media that this was a limited and diversionary assault."

Spokesman Denies Iraqi Claim of Basra Attack

LD310819 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters spokesman, in a statement here Wednesday strongly denied Iraqi claims alleging the Islamic Republic of Iran of having recently bombed residential areas of the Iraqi port-city of Basra. Labeling the claims as totally 'baseless', he said that such attributions are made only to justify Iraqi attacks on Iranian residential areas.

The Iraqi representative to the UN in a note submitted to the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Monday, claimed that Iran had bombed residential areas of Basra and killed a number of civilians. The Baghdad radio which broadcast the news did not give the time of the attacks.

The WIH spokesman said that the Islamic combatants have not opened fire on Basra in recent days. However, he stressed, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran consider it their right to respond firmly to enemy's acts of mischief.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,700 Issued

LD291703 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least 15 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts together with one anti-aircraft gun destroyed in Mehran, Dehloran, Bayat, Zobeydeh, and Abadan operational theaters Sunday when they were hit by artillery fire of Iranian Gendarmerie Forces, said a military communique here Monday. Communique Number 2,700 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said Iranian artillery fire inflicted substantial casualties on Iraqi troops in eastern Basra and Pich-e Angizeh operational regions, southern fronts, where enemy engineering operations were concentrated.

Convoys of Iranian patrols successfully reconnoitered Iraqi positions in Hajj 'Umran and Marivan, northwestern fronts, Sunday, inflicting some casualties and losses on enemy troops. Enemy artillery fire was also silenced in Hajj 'Umran.

The Joint Staff communique furthermore said that Iraqi troops suffered heavy casualties and losses when Iranian Muslim combatants shelled enemy armoured, artillery, and motorized units in the western fronts Sunday. Parts of enemy positions were also set ablaze.

Iranian forces shelled enemy armoured units and checked reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters on Sunday, the communique said.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern and northern fronts on Sunday, the communique said, adding that Iranian forces shelled Iraqi tanks in Yabis, southern fronts, damaging a number of them

Movements of Iraqi vehicle columns were checked in Kani-Sheykh and Helaleh operational theaters, southern fronts, on Sunday.

Communique No 2,701

LD301554 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 30, IRNA — A considerable number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least 45 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts, three tank positions, and three anti-aircraft gun positions were destroyed throughout the fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Monday [29 December], said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2,701 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iranian forces shelled Iraqi armoured units in Yabis and Nahr-e Anbar operational theaters, southern fronts, Monday destroying some enemy tanks with their crews.

Some Iraqi rocket-propelled-grenade launchers (RPG-7) were seized by convoys of Iranian patrols who successfully reconnoitered pre-determined enemy positions throughout the fronts Monday, it said.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Naft Shahr as a result of which Iraqi troops were prevented from repairing their damaged positions or setting up mine fields.

The communique furthermore said that a number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and at least 15 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Monday when they were hit by the artillery fire of Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

Iranian anti-aircraft fire checked reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin operational regions, western fronts, Monday, forcing the enemy patrol helicopters to flee, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said, Iraqi artillery units suffered heavy damage and their fire silenced in Panjwin, northwestern fronts, Monday by Iranian artillery fire.

In Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, Iranian artillery fire killed or wounded a large number of Iraqi forces and destroyed more than 30 enemy gun emplacements, three anti-aircraft gun positions, and three tank positions. Movement of enemy vehicle columns were also checked in Qasr-e Shirin.

In Piranshah, Marivan, and Sar Dasht, northwestern fronts, Iranian artillery fire silenced Iraqi fire and made enemy supply routes unsafe, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces continued fortifying their positions and opened heavy fire on enemy fortifications on Monday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them.

Iraqi Ammunition Depot 'Destroyed'
LD271713 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec 27, IRNA — An Iraqi ammunition depot was destroyed around Umm Qasr port in the Val-Fajr-8 operational theater, by artillery fire of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Friday. Vast parts around the port were engulfed by flame and smoke as a result of the explosion.

Iraqi logistical operations were also halted when enemy supply routes in the operational region came under Iranian artillery fire Friday.

IRGC Reports Peshmerga Operations
LD281412 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced: The Peshmergas of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq [KDP] in an operation carried out on 23 December attacked a summer palace of Saddam in (Eyngkeh) region, near Sartang, and inflicted heavy losses on special forces guarding the palace.

The report, quoting Ramadan headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, also says, another group of the KDP Peshmergas attacking concentration points of the enemy forces at (Basteki) region, near Zakhu, fired on the locality using heavy weaponry and killing 30 of the forces of the Zionist enemy. They also destroyed three vehicles.

Another report from Ramadan headquarters says, the KDP Peshmergas setting an ambush along the main road from Amadiyah to (Dalluk) succeeded in destroying a vehicle of the Iraqi Army and killing three passengers. In the course of the operation, 12 light and heavy weapons were captured.

Iraqi Battalion Surrenders
LD291059 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpt] A report from Ramadan headquarters says: Following successive defeats suffered by the Iraqi regime on political and military fronts at the hands of the Islamic Republic, and the misguided Iraqi Army's realization of the sinister nature of the Ba'thist regime, and in the knowledge that Saddam's regime is to collapse shortly, the Iraqi Afwaj al-Khafifah Battalion, under the command of Dara Hajji Ibrahim, surrendered yesterday to the Peshmerga of the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan with all their equipment. The battalion was responsible for Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah region. [passage omitted]